

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9 and 11-23 are pending in the instant application.

Claims 8 and 10 have been previously cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 17-21(*sic*) have been previously withdrawn from consideration

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 11-13, and 15-23 are cancelled herewith , without prejudice.

Claims 5 and 14 have been amended herewith. Applicant submits no new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Claims 1-2, 9, 11 and 22-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Todd (U.S. Patent No. 5,423,745).

Claims 1-2, 4 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Briscoe (U.S. Patent No. 6,458,096).

Claims 7 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Todd.

Claims 6-7, 9, 11, 13, 15-16, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Briscoe.

Claims 3 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Todd or Briscoe in further view of Grayzel (U.S. Pat. No. 4,921,479).

Claims 5 and 14 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 9, 11 and 22-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Todd (U.S. Patent No. 5,423,745). Applicant respectfully submits this rejection has been rendered moot in light of the instant amendment where Claims 1-2, 9, 11 and 22-23 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-2, 4 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Briscoe (U.S. Patent No. 6,458,096). Applicant respectfully submits this rejection has been rendered moot in light of the instant amendment where Claims 1-2, 4, and 22 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 7 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Todd. Applicant respectfully submits this rejection has been rendered moot in light of the instant amendment where Claims 7 and 16 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 6-7, 9, 11, 13, 15-16, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Briscoe. Applicant respectfully submits this rejection has been rendered moot in light of the instant amendment where Claims 6-7, 9, 11, 13, 15-16, and 23 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

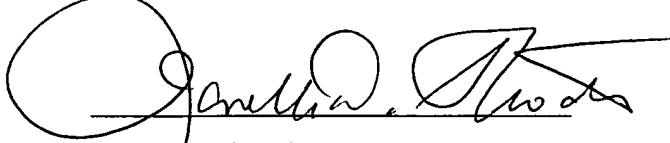
Claims 3 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Todd or Briscoe in further view of Grayzel (U.S. Pat. No. 4,921,479). Applicant respectfully submits this rejection has been rendered moot in light of the instant amendment where Claims 3 and 12 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of now pending Claims 5 and 14. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janelle D. Strode", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Janelle D. Strode, Reg. No. 34,738
Lathrop & Gage L.C.
2345 Grand Boulevard
Suite 2300
Kansas City, MO 64108-2612
Tel: (816) 460-5859
Fax: (816) 292-2001
Attorney for Applicant